



THE AMERICAN LEGION

July 2010

Upcoming Events

- **July 3:** Independence Day Parade in Gibbon
- **July 4:** Independence Day
- **July 25:** SAL Meeting
- **July 26:** Legion Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- **July 27, 1953:** Korean War Ends
- **August 7:** Membership Drive, 5:30—7:00 p.m.

Support
our
Troops!



Legion Officers

Commander

Randy Stocker

Vice Commander

Eugene Giger

Financial Officer

Mick Ross

Adjutant

Julie Schnitzler

Sergeant at Arms

Jim Myrick

Chaplain

Frank Spotanski

Service Officer

Marlin Westberg

Bradley Buck Post #310 ♦ 1029 Court St. ♦ PO Box 175 ♦ Gibbon, NE 68840 ♦ (308) 468-5845

Meet Jim Myrick

Jim Myrick, son of Noah and Dora (Banks) graduated from Jackson County Training School in Marianna, Florida, in 1966. He had three siblings: Noah Jr., Lula, and Lilly. After graduating, Jim moved to California and worked for a contractor at the Strategic Air Command in Fairfield, California. Jim was responsible for destroying classified documents. After six months and under advice from his friend and police officer and his boss, he enlisted in the Army in December of 1966. He went to Basic Training (BT) at Ft. Lewis, Washington. "The drill sergeant picked me out immediately, asking 'Where you from?'. When I responded, "California" he quickly replied, "The only thing I know that comes from California is hot rods and steers and I don't see no horns."

Jim became the squad leader in the second week and by the third week he was the platoon leader and the drill instructors used Jim as an example when they taught; this gave Jim confidence in his abilities. Jim was one of four soldiers in BT that were not ordered



Myrick page 2

Minutes of June Executive Meeting

The minutes of the June membership meeting were not available at the time of newsletter publishing, so the executive meeting minutes are available, which follow closely to the membership meetings.

Commander Randy Stocker opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. on June 20 with seven members in attendance. Donations were received from Louise Codner family in memory of Vern Johnston. Lee Meents donated a 19" color monitor and Bob Godbersen donated a Christmas tree. Previous minutes and the financial report were approved as read. NEW BUSINESS: Gibbon Independence Day parade arrangements were made. Elections of 2011 officers will be made at July 27 membership meeting. Flag burning ceremonies will be held in conjunction with the Boy Scouts on July 3 at 1:30 p.m. MANAGER REPORT: Two patrons had gotten in a fight the previous Saturday. Police were called. A buffet will be served on July 3 & 4.

Good Luck, Shelton/Gibbon Baseball Players and Coaches
in District and State Tournaments @ Gibbon, July 22-27.

to Infantry School. Jim was classified as artillery and upon graduation from BT, he was sent to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, for his Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Upon reporting to his new duty station, Jim saluted his commanding officer inside the billets and was corrected. Jim complimented the Officer, impressing him and earned the commander's respect. Before attending AIT, the commander sent Jim to Military Police Escort School (handling Prisoners of War) and Ranger Survivor School. At AIT Jim learned how to find his position by using three fixed targets, gathering weather data to call for direct fire and of course, how to pull guard duty and keep a proper uniform. After AIT Jim was sent to "Vietnam School" for two weeks where he remembers "we were told not to eat their food or drink as our bodies weren't accustomed to the cuisine and to travel in two's or three's, never alone.



During AIT, 5-man teams were built that would deploy to Vietnam together. Jim's team boarded a C-130 at Ft. Sill; it landed in Anchorage where they got on a ship that took 46 days to travel to Saigon. In route they weathered a typhoon which sent the bow of the ship 12 to 15 feet in the air and then hit "something", maybe a whale, which damaged the prop and started a small fire. "We were told it was a small fire, but we had to don life jackets and stand at the rail of the ship. Some soldiers jumped into the ocean, not me. The fire was a concern because our ammunition and grenades were stored down there." The ship limped into Subeck Bay in the Philippines before continuing to Saigon Harbor in June of 1967. They were crowded onto landing crafts and landed under fire and then boarded the awaiting vehicles.



From Saigon to their base camp, Cu Chi, they took small and large arm fire for the entire 70 miles; the running gun fight was Jim's first experience with warfare. They arrived at Cu Chi after dark and the guards were reluctant to open the gates. After two days at Cu Chi, Jim's five-man team was sent by Chinook to the outpost Trun Lap, "37 clicks outside the secure wire." Jim was assigned to Company C of the 1st Ranger Battalion for the next two years.

Jim lost his best friend, Charley Dominick (from Georgia) the second week at Trun Lap. The Vietcong pitched a grenade in their living quarters which landed between Jim's boots. Charley reacted, grabbing the grenade intending to throw it into a nearby bunker, but didn't make it. Jim was wounded several times: shrapnel that killed his best friend, bullets in his flack vest between his lungs and rib cage, and a med evac after he was hit in the shoulder. He was treated and returned to duty.

They spent the first month of the tour, digging in, building a 20' x 60' bunker eight feet into the ground. Using portable landing strip material, they built walls and reinforced the ceiling with three layers of sandbags. Jim thought it was odd that every morning the Commanding Officer would call Revelry and assign details. Jim hated latrine duty as well as "police calls", so he would try to catch the captain's attention to be sent out on patrol to gather intelligence. Jim would call in fire support from the Naval vessels off-coast as well as other support units.

When asked about mail call, Jim replied, "I buried my Mom 30 days before deploying to Vietnam, my dad wasn't much of a writer and my sisters were in high school. I didn't stick around for mail call. Once in a while I received a letter from a pen pal in Trinidad."

In December of 1968, Jim received orders to leave Vietnam. He flew into Ben Wa, then Japan, Hawaii and finally his hometown of Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, California. He received his discharge papers at the Oakland Army Depot and began looking for a job. Jim didn't encounter the Vietnam veteran treatment until he started looking for jobs. "It was tough; I was told once 'We just called the



Membership Dinner

August 7

5:30—7:00 p.m.

FREE for paid

Legion Members: \$30

Auxiliary: \$15

Sons of American Legion: \$25

Social Memberships: \$20

All others: \$10



Korean War Ends 57 years ago

The war began on 25 June 1950 and an armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. The war was a result of the political division of Korea by agreement of the victorious Allies at the conclusion of the Pacific War. The Korean peninsula had been ruled by Japan from 1910 until the end of that war. In 1945, following the surrender of Japan, American administrators divided the peninsula along the 38th parallel, with United States troops occupying the southern part and Soviet troops occupying the northern part. The failure to hold free elections throughout the Korean Peninsula in 1948 deepened the division between the two sides, and the North established a Communist government. The 38th Parallel increasingly became a political border between the two Koreas. Although reunification negotiations continued in the months preceding the war, tension intensified. Cross-border skirmishes and raids at the 38th Parallel persisted. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. It was the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War. From Wikipedia

Korean War Service Medal – On August 20, 1998, Francis M. Rush Jr, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, approved the acceptance and wearing of the Korean War Service Medal (KWSM). Military veterans, who served in the country of Korea, its territorial waters or airspace, are eligible to receive this medal. The period of service the KWSM is June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953. Veterans who served in Japan, Guam, Okinawa or the Philippines are not eligible.

To be eligible, service must have been performed while on permanent assignment in Korea, while in temporary duty in Korea for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, or while serving as a crewmember of an aircraft in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

Other information regarding the Korean War Service Medal and the Korean War can be obtained at the Korean War Commemoration web site at www.korea50mil.welcome.shtml. This is the official public access website for the United States of America's Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War.

U.S. veterans of the Korean War, the Primary Next-of-Kin of a deceased Korean War Veteran, who are eligible to receive the Republic of Korea, KWSM should complete a form and enclose a DD 214 and social security number/military service number. See Adjutant Julie Schnitzler for assistance in completing the necessary paperwork.

Cold War Recognition Certificate is signed by the current Secretary of Defense and is for all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War Era, defined as September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991. The form can be found at www.nara.gov.





Linda Brodine

High School Teacher of the Year



**Vietnam
Traveling
Wall
July 2
Grand Island**



Gibbon Legion Members, Jim Myrick, Lee Meents and Julie Schnitzler volunteer at the Opening Ceremonies of the Vietnam Traveling Wall.

BE A PART OF THIS PATRIOTIC EVENT

NEBRASKA'S 1ST STATE VETERANS CEMETERY DEDICATION CEREMONY 11 AM AUGUST 13, 2010



PLAN ON STAYING THE WEEKEND FOR MORE EXCITING EVENTS!

- P-51 Mustang Fly Over
- Plane Rides & Photos
- 1940's Dance in Airport Hanger
- BBQ & Picnic in Central Park
- Box Butte County Fair Week
- RC Model Airplane Competition

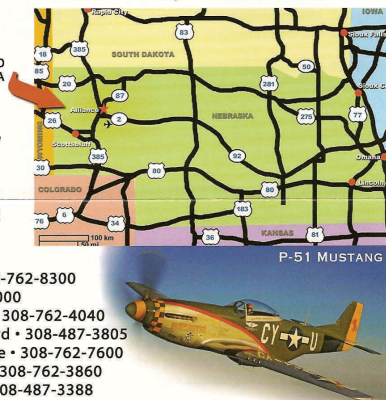
Hotels, Motels & RV Parks

American Inn ~ 1419 W. 3rd • Alliance • 308-762-8300
Days Inn ~ 117 Cody • Alliance • 308-762-8000
1st Interstate Inn ~ 1207 W. 3rd • Alliance • 308-762-4040
Hansen's B&B ~ 7660 Hayes Rd • Hemingford • 308-487-3805
Holiday Inn Express ~ 1420 W. 3rd • Alliance • 308-762-7600
J&C RV Park ~ 2491 S. Hwy 385 • Alliance • 308-762-3860
Patriot Inn ~ 851 CR 71 #3 • Hemingford • 308-487-3388
Rainbow Motel ~ 614 W. 3rd • Alliance • 308-762-4980
Sunset Motel & RV Park ~ 1210 E. Hwy 2 • Alliance • 308-762-8660
The Cottage ~ 405 Shoshone Ave. • Hemingford • 308-487-5272

Tourist Information ~ 1-877-BOX-TRSM ~ www.visitboxbutte.com

Flyer Courtesy of Box Butte County Visitors Committee

Designed & Printed by www.mildgraphics.com 308-760-2236



Free Museum Admission for Military Personnel

Blue Star Museums: More than 600 museums across all 50 United States are offering free admission to US military personnel and their families from Memorial Day (May 31) through Labor Day (Sept. 6) to show their appreciation of those serving in uniform. The National Endowment for the Arts is making this possible in partnership with the Blue Star Families museums.

The free admission program is available to active duty military of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty Reserve and active duty National Guard and their immediate family members, according to NEA's announcement. For an interactive map of the participating museums, and for details on the identification required and potential exclusions, go to NEA's Blue Star Museums Web page

<http://www.nea.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php>

American Legion Night Lincoln Saltdogs

August 17, 2010 7:05 pm

For more information contact Jeff at 402-441-4186 or toll free 877-464-2255.

Membership News

The 2011 membership year begins August 1. To kick off our membership drive, we are hosting a Dinner (see p. 3) on August 7. Plan to attend as you will save the Legion postage, receive your 2011 membership card that night as well as help our Club meet membership goals. If 70% of our membership submits their dues by September 1, Post #310 will receive a One Star Citation. We currently have 130 members and would like an additional 20. Invite relatives, friends and neighbors to attend the dinner.

To date, 112 newsletters are sent via the USPS and another 128 are emailed for a total of 240. Newsletter can be emailed to anyone free of charge, so if you know of someone who would like to receive a copy, please email gibbonle-gion@gmail.com.

(Myrick continued from page 2) police; we don't have a job for you, so go.' It was so bad that I was ready to re-enlist." Finally, Jim was hired by the San Francisco Police Department to work as a traffic officer where he rode three- and two-wheel bikes. After finishing the Academy and earning his badge, he became a station officer, booking and discharging prisoners. Jim experienced the San Francisco riots and was the point man on two different SWAT teams. Jim attended San Francisco City Solano Junior College and earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice.

Because of Jim's VietNam experience, he needed a break from law enforcement. He trucked produce and heavy equipment across the United States for twelve years and fell in love with Nebraska. Jim was working in Calloway when the Kearney Hub wrote a story on him. Charlotte Burr read the story and wrote to him. Soon the letters increased in number and she invited him to Gibbon. Jim rode pens (rode through the cattle at feed lots). Jim enjoys his hobby of horses as well as impressing children "to do the right thing."

Independence Day Parade



Top: Linda Brodine, American Legion Teacher of the Year; Honor Guard: Mick Ross, Mick Darnell, Lee Meents, Jim Myrick, Dianna Merriman, Frank Spotanski. Second Row: Gibbon Boy Scout Troup; Orville Shuster and Don Cline; Third Row: Welcome Home Troops; and Buffalo Bill & Sailor son with Marlin Westberg and Joe Rayburn.

Gibbon Legion Post #310 would like to thank all the parade participants who honored all Veterans and the American flag. Thank you especially to the Patriot Riders who came from everywhere, Kenesaw Motors for donating four pickups and fuel and to the Gibbon Boy Scouts who assisted in the flag burning ceremony after the parade.



DEDICATION

of

Three Nebraska State Historical Markers

Commemorating the

WORLD WAR II AIR CRASHES

of

October 25, 1943, May 10, 1944, and September 8, 1944

and Honoring the

Thirty-Two Airmen



SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2010

Milligan, Nebraska

- 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Dedication Ceremony at Location of Markers - One-half mile north of Milligan on Highway 41
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. - Black Hawk Static Display - Tractor Pull Field
- 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. - Milligan Czech Brass Band - Centennial Garden
- 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. - Dedication Program - Centennial Garden
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. - BBQ Picnic - Centennial Garden
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Jerry Penry - Slide Presentation and Question & Answer Session regarding the crashes - Auditorium
- 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. - Reception and Dance featuring the Big Band Sounds of the nine-piece Leo Lonnie Orchestra - Auditorium

(In case of inclement weather the activities will be held in the Auditorium)

For more information, please contact Janet Bartels (402) 629-4207; Roma Bigelow (402) 629-4581; Shirley Brunkow (402) 629-4484; Merle Buzek (402) 629-4314; Dorothy Novak (402) 629-4401; Kathy Rischling (402) 629-4414; Dennis Steeby (402) 430-2135.

